

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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speak.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, yesterday I predicted twice that Senator Schellpeper would withdraw amendments and he did. He offered this one, and I said *deja vu* all over again, he is going to withdraw this one also, and he did. But it, nevertheless, gave us the opportunity to discuss the issue, and we will continue to discuss it, no matter what the particular amendment might happen to be. But I want you all to see that I can look into Senator Schellpeper's heart and know what he's going to do before he even knows. I'm his friend. I am the friend of everybody. A poem was read to me when I was a child. It was called something about living in a house by the side of the road and being a friend, it said, to man, but it should have said to humankind. That's what I do. But I want to take this opportunity, even with the impending withdrawal of that amendment to make another comment or two. What you all should keep in mind is that right now there is a defense if a person is carrying a concealed weapon. Senator Brashear's committee wants to take that defense away and require everybody who is going to carry a concealed weapon to get this license. Now I want to ask him a question. Senator Brashear, let's say I don't have the courageous spirit, which I must have, I don't call it courage, but it must be, since I'm not running around here scared of every shadow and wanting to carry pistols. Suppose I didn't have the courageous spirit that I have, and threats were made against me, and I ran to the local police, called the FBI, and they confirmed that these threats were being made. I, right now, could carry a concealed weapon and demonstrate that I needed it to protect myself, and offer that as a defense. If this bill comes into effect, I couldn't do that and have a defense. I've got to go through all of these steps before I legally could have a license. Is that true, Senator Brashear, what I said? Senator Brashear, are you there?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Madam President, yes. Senator Chambers, in a general sense it is, but there's a difference between an affirmative defense and having a permit to do it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Let's make it specific now and get away from